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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Talks
Subject: CPR Looks at Warsaw and Laos

The Chinese failure thus far to respond to our proposal, conveyed to them at the beginning of this week, that we meet next in Warsaw on April 1, 2, or 3 suggests that they will not in fact agree to these dates. We suspect that the evolving situation in Laos and Cambodia and Chinese wariness over meeting with us in this context is responsible for their delay. Peking might respond now and propose a date somewhat later in April.* However, unless the Chinese tie their proposal for a new meeting to concern over tension in Indochina, we will probably wish ourselves to postpone the meeting until after GRC Vice-Premier Chiang Ching-kuo's April 18-28 visit to the United States.

The first Chinese Communist Foreign Ministry statement on Laos in a year was issued March 26 and appeared to convey sharply increased Chinese concern over the developing situation, particularly

① U.S. bombing. The statement said the Chinese "will not stand idly by" in the face of U.S. actions (a formulation they last used, regarding Viet-Nam, in early 1965). The March 26 statement also referred to Laos as a "close neighbor" and noted support by the Chinese "Government" as well as "people" for the Laotian struggle. These are little touches, but they underline direct Chinese interest and concern in a manner last duplicated by Chinese

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commentaries and statements about Laos in the early 1960s. Although there are no other signs that Peking is preparing to up the tempo of its own actions in Laos, the Chinese statement thus represents a more ominous growl than we have seen for a long time.

Theodore L. Eliot Jr.

Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.
Executive Secretary

Clearance: EA - Amb. Brown *W*

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